

# Good Neighbor Environmental Board

## ROUND-UP

*Board and environmental news along the U.S.-Mexico border*

Volume 3, Number 2  
April 2002



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### **Good Neighbor Board News**

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### **Upcoming Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meetings**

- June 5-6, 2002                      El Paso, TX
- October 9-10, 2002                Nogales, AZ

### **El Paso Meeting on June 5-6**

The Hilton Camino Real in El Paso has been selected as the meeting site for the Board's meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The theme for the meeting is "innovative partnerships." Speakers from the public and private sectors will discuss the role that innovation has played in making their environmental infrastructure project successful, and offer tips for replication. The public comment session is scheduled for 12 noon on June 5<sup>th</sup>. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, the Board will hold a half-day routine business meeting.

### **Nogales, Arizona Meeting**

Plans are under way to put together a slate of speakers for the Board's last meeting of 2002, which will take place in Nogales, Arizona on October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The site has not yet been selected. The dual theme of the meeting is "conservation" and "health." The agenda will include a special two-hour session on the relationship between Homeland Security and border-region environmental infrastructure.

### **EPA News**

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EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman has released a summary list of EPA senior staff in place or nominated as of May 2, 2002:

### **EPA Headquarters Senior Staff**

Linda Fisher, Deputy Administrator  
Judith Ayres, Assistant Administrator, Office of International Activities  
Paul Gilman, Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development  
Jeff Holmstead, Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation  
Marianne Horinko, Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

Stephen (Steve) Johnson, Assistant Administrator, Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances  
Tracy Mehan, Assistant Administrator, Office of Water  
Kim Nelson, Assistant Administrator, Office of Environmental Information  
Morris X. Winn, Assistant Administrator, Office of Administration and Resources Management  
*Nominated:* John Peter Suarez, Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

EPA Regional Administrators

Region 1 - Robert Varney  
Region 2 - Jane Kenny  
Region 3 - Donald Welsh  
Region 4 - James Palmer, Jr.  
Region 5 - Thomas Skinner

Region 6 - Gregg Cooke  
Region 7 - Jim Gulliford  
Region 8 - Jack McGraw  
Region 9 - Wayne Nastri  
Region 10 - L. John Iani

**Border Region and  
National News**

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*\*\*\*Note: The items in the section below have been cut-and-pasted and compiled from other documents. Please check a primary source to ensure complete accuracy. Web sites may have to be re-entered.\*\*\**

**Air - Visibility** - EPA is proposing a program to reduce SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the western United States called the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) Annex Plan. WRAP participants include the U.S. border states of California, Arizona, and New Mexico; 9 additional western states; and 9 tribes. Public comments on the proposal are being accepted. See [www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg).

**BECC** - During March 2002, projects were presented as follows:

- Step 1: Webb County Vapor Power Project; TXEL Tire Cycle Project; Water and Wastewater improvement for the city of Pharr, TX
- Technical assistance requested: wastewater, Somerton, AZ; water, Huachuca City, AZ; wastewater, La Joya, TX; wastewater, Tornillo, TX; water and wastewater, El Paso County, TX; water, Los Fresnos, TX; wastewater, Nogales, Sonora; water and wastewater, Matamoros, Tamaulipas; water and wastewater, Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas
- Technical assistance approved: wastewater, Somerton, AZ; wastewater, La Joya, TX; wastewater, Tornillo, TX; water and wastewater, El Paso County, TX; water and wastewater, Matamoros, Tamaulipas.

**Border Program** - U.S. EPA, SEMARNAT, and other federal agencies from the U.S. and Mexico met on April 11-12 in Mexico City to discuss the new binational Border Plan. Extensive input from a wide variety of sectors will be sought on the plan.

**Brownfields** - EPA has launched a new website to promote the cleanup and reuse of Brownfields properties regulated by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). See [www.epa.gov/swerosps/rcraf/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/rcraf/index.htm)

EPA Administrator Whitman has announced \$21.5 million in Brownfields grants to clean up and revitalize blighted communities in 17 states. State government grants include one border state, New Mexico, which has been awarded \$1 million. Local governments awarded grants include one border community, El Paso, Texas, which will receive \$1 million. See [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

**CEC** - Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) - Victor Lichtinger has nominated 3 new members to JPAC: Mindahi Crescencio Bastida-Munoz, Adriana Nelly Correa Sandoval, and Carlos Sandoval Olvera; this completes Mexico's delegation.

National Advisory Committee (NAC) and Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) - Judith Ayres, EPA Assistant Administrator for the Office of International Affairs, was among the speakers who addressed the NAC and GAC during their meeting in Washington, D.C. on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The committees will issue Advice Letters to the U.S. representative to the CEC, EPA Administrator Whitman, in advance of the upcoming CEC Council Session in Ottawa, Ontario on June 18-19.

**Environmental Justice** - The Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice is soliciting a second round of nominations for partnerships working to address local environmental justice concerns. Each project must serve a minority, low-income, or tribal community, address an environmental justice concern, include at least two federal agencies, and a mix of other stakeholders. See [www.epa.gov/compliance/recent/ej.html](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/recent/ej.html)

**Pesticides - Grants** - EPA is making grant money available to states and tribes to develop programs designed to reduce the risks associated with pesticide use in agricultural and non-agricultural settings. Deadline: May 27. See [www.epa.gov/opbppd1/PESP/regional\\_grants.htm](http://www.epa.gov/opbppd1/PESP/regional_grants.htm)

**Report** - EPA Region 9's latest Border Report newsletter is the second of two that examine energy issues in the border region. Contact: Michael Montgomery, (415) 972-3438.

The Natural Resources Defense Council released a new report on Earth Day, April 22, that says environmental safeguards are being rolled back in a number of areas. In its view, one example is weakening the requirements that older power plants install state-of-the-art cleanup equipment when they expand or modernize. The report is called *Rewriting the Rules: The Bush Administration's Assault on the Environment*. See [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org)

The University of New Mexico School of Law has published Vol. 1, No. 1 of the *Utton Center Report*, a newsletter from the Utton Transboundary Resources Center. The newsletter formerly was named *Transboundary Resources Report*. This issue contains several articles that address new approaches to transboundary conflicts over water. Contact: Reva Chapman, (505) 277-7809 or [UttonCenter@law.unm.edu](mailto:UttonCenter@law.unm.edu).

The strongest effects of climate change in Mexico are likely to be in the central Chihuahuan desert south of New Mexico, according to a paper published in a recent issue of the journal *Nature*. The paper was co-authored by a team from the University of Kansas, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, and the University of California. It is said to be the first analysis of the potential impacts of climate change for an entire country.

**Water - Watersheds** - EPA and partners are launching a new program called Clean Water Partners for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to highlight watershed approaches being taken by local governments. Applications due May 30, 2002. See [www.cleanwaterpartners.org](http://www.cleanwaterpartners.org).

**Website** - Worldwatch Institute has released a new interactive web-based timeline called The Path to Johannesburg. Its goal was to mark Earth Day 2002 and build momentum for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, scheduled to open in Johannesburg, South Africa, on August 26<sup>th</sup> of this year. See [www.worldwatch.org](http://www.worldwatch.org).

## Events Calendar

*from the Good Neighbor Environmental Board  
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*Notes: Event listings below have been drawn from other lists. Please check a primary source for accuracy. **Events specific to border region are in bold.** Web sites may have to be re-entered. Please notify Editor of changes.*

- May 6** Tijuana-Rosarito Potable Water and Wastewater Master Plan Public Meeting, San Ysidro, CA. Contact: Carlos Melvin, (760) 438-7755.
- May 6-8** Border Institute IV, Rio Rico, AZ. See [www.scerp.org](http://www.scerp.org)
- May 6-8 X International Meeting Expo Agua 2002, Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. See [www.smaac.org.mx/expoagua](http://www.smaac.org.mx/expoagua)
- May 8** EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Border Forum: La Mujer Obrera, Café Mayapan, El Paso, TX.
- May 14-16 Udall Center Environmental Conflict Resolution conference, Tucson, AZ. Contact: [ecr@bscmanage.com](mailto:ecr@bscmanage.com)
- May 14 & 16 EPA free compliance assistance workshops in San Diego (14<sup>th</sup>) and Phoenix (16<sup>th</sup>). Contact: Sherri Deck, (301) 347-5311.
- May 15-17 4<sup>th</sup> Conference on Research and Resource Management in the Southwestern Deserts, Tucson, AZ. See [www.werc.usgs.gov/sdfs/meetings.html](http://www.werc.usgs.gov/sdfs/meetings.html)
- May 17-21 River Network's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual River Rally, Asheville, NC. See [www.rivernetnetwork.org](http://www.rivernetnetwork.org)
- May 20-24 Third National Water Quality Monitoring Conference; includes workshop on data comparability across international boundaries, Madison, WI. Contact: John Klein, USGS, (650)329-5264.
- May 22-24** Arizona-Mexico Commission Plenary Conference, Phoenix, AZ. See [www.azmc.org](http://www.azmc.org)
- May 23** EPA San Diego Border Office Open House, PROFEPA's Clean Industries initiative, Holiday Inn, National City, CA.
- May 30 EPA Clean Air Act Advisory Committee public meeting, Loews Ventana Canyon Hotel, Tucson, AZ. Contact: Paul Rasmussen, (202) 564-1306.
- May 31-June 1** U.S.-Mexico Border Counties Coalition Legislative Conference, El Paso, TX. Contact: [dian@austin-copelin.com](mailto:dian@austin-copelin.com)
- June 3-4 National Symposium: Designating Attainable Uses for the Nation's Waters, Washington, D.C. See [www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/symposium](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/symposium)
- June 4-7** U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association Annual Meeting, Chihuahua, Chihuahua
- June 5-6** Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meeting, El Paso, TX.
- June 12** EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Border Forum, Tres Amigos video, El Paso, TX.
- June 18-19 CEC Annual Council Session, Ottawa, Ontario
- June 21-22** U.S.-Mexico Border Governors' Conference, Phoenix, AZ.
- July 10** EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Border Forum, Homeland Security, Public Library, El Paso, TX.
- July 23-26 Universities Council on Water Resources Annual Conference, "Integrated Transboundary Water Management," Traverse City, Michigan. See [www.uwin.siu.edu/ucowr/](http://www.uwin.siu.edu/ucowr/)
- Aug 14** EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Border Forum, El Paso, TX
- Sept 11** EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Border Forum
- Sept 12** EPA San Diego Border Office Open House
- Oct 9-10** Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meeting, Nogales, AZ
- Oct 9** EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Border Forum
- Oct 10** EPA San Diego Border Office Open House
- Oct 18 National Water Monitoring Day. See [www.yearofcleanwater.org](http://www.yearofcleanwater.org)
- Oct 21-23 Race for Clean Water Conference 2002, Dover, DE. See [www.dnrec.state.de](http://www.dnrec.state.de)

**Oct. 24-25** Border Energy Forum IX, Saltillo, Coahuila. See [www.glo.state.tx.us/energy/border/forum/9/](http://www.glo.state.tx.us/energy/border/forum/9/)  
 Oct 30 - Nov 1 World Watershed Summit, Washington, D.C.  
**Nov 7-9** IV Meeting on the Border Environment, Tucson, AZ. See [www.encuentrofronterizo.org](http://www.encuentrofronterizo.org)  
**Nov 13** EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Border Forum  
**Nov 14** EPA San Diego Border Office Open House  
**Nov 18-22** First International Symposium on Transboundary Waters Management, Monterrey, MX. See [www.TransboundaryWatersMexico.org](http://www.TransboundaryWatersMexico.org)  
 Dec 4-6 EPA National Compliance Assistance Providers Forum, San Antonio, TX. Contact: Joanne Berman, (202) 564-7064.  
**Dec 11** EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Border Forum  
  
2003  
 Mar 16-23 The 3rd World Water Forum, Kyoto, Shiga, and Osaka, Japan. See [www.worldwaterforum.org](http://www.worldwaterforum.org)

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